

Montgomery County RRF Wins Academy Award

The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility was honored recently with the **Grand Prize in Excellence in Environmental Engineering** from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. Art Balmer, chief of the Division of Solid Waste Services for Montgomery County, accepted the award during a luncheon on April 16 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Recognized for having "minimized environmental impacts while annually processing more than 430,000 tons of solid waste," the facility received this top award in the category of Operation/Management. The award-winning facility is owned by the Authority on behalf of Montgomery County, and operated by Ogden Martin Systems.

"It is gratifying to receive such a prestigious award acknowledging the environmental excellence of the facil-

ity," said Robert Merryman, deputy director of the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation. "The staff of the Division of Solid Waste Services and Ogden, our contractor, have worked long and hard to make this an outstanding facility. This recognition culminates a journey over the past ten years."

The facility, located in Dickerson, Maryland, employs a unique combination of effective pollution prevention strategies that include creating electricity for sale, recovering approximately 1,000 tons of ferrous from its waste stream per month, and employing advanced air emissions control technologies. Among these advanced technologies are furnace lime injection and a semi-dry spray absorber for the control of acid

(continued on page 6)



Art Balmer, Chief of the Division of Solid Waste Services for Montgomery County, accepts the Grand Prize in Excellence in Environmental Engineering from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.



From left to right: Jim Reynolds, Chris Skaggs, Robin Depot, Art Balmer, Roy Simpson, Brad Crispell and Dr. Ramana Rao at the awards luncheon sponsored by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.

MAKING MARYLAND CLEANER

Authority jurisdictions have been working hard to keep the state environmentally clean. **Page 2.**

R-E-C-Y-C-L-E

Get ready for the "recycle guys" on your local television channels in July and August. **Page 2.**

EPA ISSUES FINAL POLICY FOR CERCLA SETTLEMENTS

For a summary of EPA's final "Policy for Municipality and Municipal Solid Waste CERCLA settlements at NPL Co-Disposal Sites," see **page 3.**

SPECIAL REPORT ON ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Authority Project Analyst JoAnn Strack reports on Options for Electronic Equipment Reuse, Recycling and Disposal. **Pages 3 and 4.**

LANDFILL PARTNERSHIP PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY

King George County is pleased with its partnership with Anne Arundel County for landfill disposal. **Page 5.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Making Maryland Cleaner

Since the last issue of *WasteWatch* was printed, all seven Authority member jurisdictions (Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Montgomery Counties) have sponsored community events aimed at making Maryland a safer and cleaner place to live. To date, more than 105,000 pounds of residential hazardous waste, 440 gallons of latex paint and 5,000 tires have been collected and safely disposed of. All these waste materials were collected from residents who participated in Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day events and Scrap Tire Amnesty Day. Additionally, more than 520 gas-powered lawn mowers were turned in for rebates under the Maryland Department of the Environment's "Cash for Clippers" incentive program. More than 750 backyard compost bins were distributed to residents through composting workshops and events. Good job everyone!

For more information regarding upcoming events, contact your local county recycling division.



Baltimore County staff members Bill Galanti, Mike Imbierowicz, Tony Gulati, Elissa Reineck, and Ellen Kobler (touching mower) help a county resident turn in a gas-powered lawn mower.

Ellen Kobler, Baltimore County staff, serves as cashier for the county's compost bin sale.

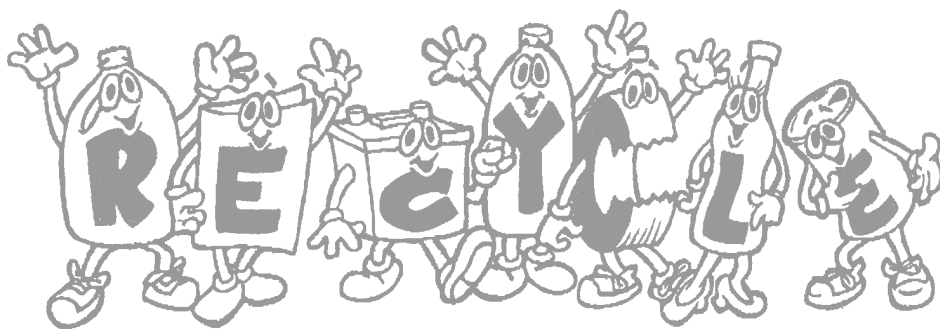


Elissa Reineck, Baltimore County staff, works the county's "Cash For Clippers" booth.



Clyde Trombetti, Baltimore County staff, works with two Master Gardener volunteers.

Authority Encourages Residents to



This summer you may be surprised to see cartoon characters on your television screen belting out "R-E-C-Y-C-L-E" in tune to a popular Aretha Franklin song. As part of a \$75,000 recycling advertisement campaign, the Authority has arranged for three recycling advertisements to be aired on local television channels in July and August. The goal of the campaign is to increase residential participation rates in existing curbside recycling programs and to educate the public about the benefits of recycling and composting. Two of the spots are

EPA Issues Superfund Municipal Liability Policy

EPA has issued its final "Policy for Municipality and Municipal Solid Waste CERCLA Settlements at NPL Co-Disposal Sites" in an effort to minimize multi-party litigation at Superfund landfill sites. The policy provides a settlement framework for resolving potential Superfund liability of generators and transporters of MSW and municipal sewage sludge, and municipal owners and operators at co-disposal landfills on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Under the new policy, EPA will not change its practice of generally not including generators and transporters of MSW as potentially responsible parties at NPL sites. Nevertheless, MSW generators and transporters are often sued by other parties involved in Superfund cost recovery cases. To reduce such litigation, MSW generators and transporters may resolve their liability to EPA by paying \$5.30 for each ton of MSW that they are estimated to have contributed to the Superfund site. For municipal owners/operators or co-disposal facilities, the policy establishes a presumptive baseline settlement amount that will allow owners/operators to resolve their liability by paying 20 percent of the

total estimated response costs. Provisions in the policy allow EPA regions to increase this percentage to 35 percent, and decrease the percentage if the municipality made efforts to mitigate environmental harm. Services such as mowing and other maintenance may be considered as partial settlement of a municipal owner/operator's cost share. EPA will consider claims of limited ability to pay and will be developing guidelines for further assessment with respect to this issue.

EPA does not intend to reopen settlements under the new policy, nor does it have any effect on existing unilateral administrative orders. For more information, contact Roger Truitt of Piper & Marbury, L.L.P. at (410) 576-2380 or rtruitt@pipermar.com. ❧

Source: with permission from *P&M Environment Watch*, April 1998, Vol. 1, No. 2 — Wm. Roger Truitt, Esquire.

animated and feature the "recycle guys," characters that remind viewers to recycle, to purchase goods made from recycled materials, and to buy in bulk when possible. The third spot explains the idea of composting and points out the benefits of composting yard debris and grass clippings in your backyard.

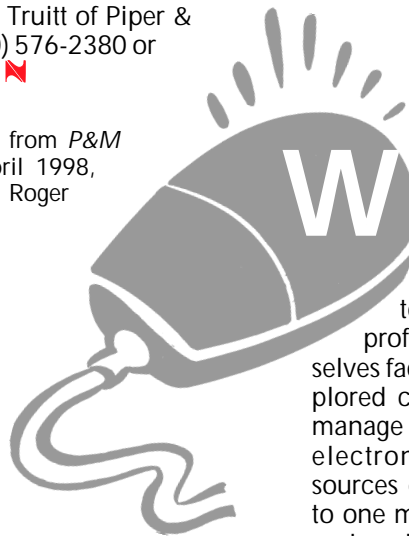
All three spots originally were produced by other agencies. The animated spots were produced by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Recycling Division. The Authority was able to secure a license

for unlimited use in the State of Maryland. The composting spot was produced by Howard County and stars John O'Hara, chief of the County's Bureau of Waste Management. The assistance provided by these agencies has resulted in significant cost savings and has forged partnerships with other organizations that have similar recycling goals and objectives. For more information or to arrange for the use of the spots in Maryland, contact JoAnn Strack of the Authority at (410) 333-2730. ❧

SPECIAL REPORT

Report from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Recycling Committee

by JoAnn Strack,
Project Analyst



With an ever-increasing demand for newer and faster computers and the arrival of high definition televisions, recycling coordinators and other solid waste professionals are finding themselves faced with a new, often unexplored challenge: how to properly manage and dispose of outdated electronics. Computer industry sources estimate that nationally up to one million computers are being replaced *each month* and that 45 million computer systems per year will become obsolete by 2005. The recycling of electronics is an issue that warrants further attention. Concentrations of lead, cadmium and mercury in the waste stream can often be attributed to electronics. Because of these issues, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments recently sponsored a seminar to address some cost effective and environmentally safe options available for the reclamation and recycling of aging electronics. Representatives from the U.S. EPA's Common Sense Initiative, Goodwill Industries and Computer Reclamation participated in the seminar.

Options for Electronic Equipment Reuse, Recycling and Disposal

In televisions and computers, the presence of cathode ray tubes (CRTs), glass tubes with heavy concentrations of lead, presents disposal problems. No clear federal ban restricting CRTs from landfills or waste-to-energy facilities exists, so the recovery of CRTs is a concern. Fortunately, the lead in CRTs is bound up in the glass and does not pose high exposure risks within manufacturing plants that recover CRT glass. The EPA has initiated a task force, called the Common Sense Initiative, to advance CRT recycling. In partnership with the electronics industry, environmental groups and government agencies, the group is examining the issue. The goal of the task force is to come up with "common sense" approaches for overcoming barriers to the recycling process. The group is evaluating the feasibility of CRT recycling in relation to cost, safety, technical concerns and regulatory barriers. Formal recommendations will be made to the EPA for consideration and public comment. The economic feasibility demonstrated by several glass manufacturers actively engaged in CRT processing is encouraging. Currently, glass manufacturers pay slightly less for glass recycled from CRTs than for virgin glass.

Jim Offutt, president of Computer Reclamation (CR), a nonprofit organization located in Silver Spring, Maryland, discussed his company's involvement in computer recycling. Computer Reclamation was founded in 1992 as part of the Washington Wheelchair Society. In 1994 it became a separate nonprofit organization. Since then, CR has grown rapidly and has become a self-supporting organization. In 1996 and 1997, CR recycled approximately 200 computers per month and is now able to process 400 computers per month. As part of its mission, CR strives to provide low-cost computers to nonprofit organizations, including churches, housing projects, learning centers and inner city community centers by mak-

ing use of computer components and equipment that might otherwise be stored or discarded. Computer Reclamation also works with communities to provide job training, leading to computer technician certification.

Collecting old computers and marketing refurbished computers are the company's biggest challenges. At this point, nearly 50 percent of the donor support comes from government agencies and CR continues to search for other potential donors. The company prefers to receive donated computers that are at least 386s, because earlier models present cost-prohibitive problems. CR works hard to identify end user markets. The prevailing attitude that buying new, top-of-the-line computers is always appropriate must often be overcome.

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The donation program operated by Goodwill Industries is another electronics recycling option slowly generating viable markets for computer recycling. Goodwill is the number one employer of people with disabilities. It generates revenue mainly through its nationwide retail stores that accept an array of donations. According to Scott Mearns, of Goodwill's international headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, many Goodwill outlets have been successful in hiring and training people to disassemble computers, reclaim reusable parts, and refurbish computers. He noted, however, that all Goodwill locations are autonomous and consequently evolve at different paces. Not

all stores are set up to accept all types of donations. As such, computer recycling is not occurring everywhere at this time. However, Goodwill outlets that do accept used computers are finding it economically attractive.

While there are some electronics recycling options available, industry and government must continue to work together to develop a comprehensive infrastructure for electronics recycling to evolve. MACREDO (The Mid-Atlantic Consortium of Recycling and Economic Development Officials) commissioned a study to further explore the recycling of electronics. The report, titled "End-of-life Computers and Electronics Recovery Policy Options for the Mid-Atlantic States," is under final review and copies should be available this summer. MACREDO is an EPA Region III grant-funded organization that consists of recycling and economic development professionals from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Clifton Dowling, market development specialist with the Maryland Department of the Environment's Recycling Services Division, noted that, "while the growth of an infrastructure for reuse of obsolete computers and the propensity to stockpile them are greatly affecting end-of-life choices, these options are merely delaying the ultimate disposal of these devices. In reality, these are not so much 'end-of-life' choices as 'life-support' choices. Inexorably, we must face the necessity to pull-the-plug. Reuse and storage options are a delaying action. They are providing us with additional time to organize a long-term solution."

For more information regarding potential computer recycling programs, contact Jim Offutt of Computer Reclamation, at (301) 495-0280. For information regarding MACREDO's final report, contact Linda Knapp at (215) 686-9242 or visit www.libertynet.org/~macrodo.



Jason Pauley, King George County Landfill Superintendent (left) shares information about the landfill with Anne Arundel County Council Chairman Bert Rice and Linda Currier, Anne Arundel County Solid Waste Operations Manager.



The tipping building where rail cars are emptied and waste is loaded on to trailers for deposit into landfill cells.

Landfill cell 4A, in the process of being filled.

Authority and Anne Arundel County Officials Visit King George Landfill

On April 13, Authority staff members accompanied Anne Arundel County officials on a tour of the King George County Landfill in King George, Virginia. The landfill is the final destination for some of Anne Arundel and Howard County wastes, under a five-year contract managed by the Authority. Waste is transported by rail from the Annapolis Junction

Transfer Station in Jessup, Maryland to the landfill. Both the landfill and the transfer station are operated by USA Waste.

Participating in the tour were Bert Rice, chairman of the Anne Arundel County Council; James Pittman, deputy director of Waste Management Services for Anne Arundel County and his staff; Gail Clayton, King George County Administrator; Jason Pauley, landfill superintendent for King George County, and representatives of USA Waste. During the visit, King George County officials expressed satisfaction with USA Waste and with the economic benefits the County receives as the host community.



REMEMBERING PARKER ANDREWS

Authority board members and staff were saddened to learn that former board member Parker Andrews died of cancer at his home on June 3. Appointed by Governor Harry Hughes in 1980, Parker was one of the Authority's first board members. He served as treasurer from 1987 until his retirement from Anne Arundel County government in 1993. Beyond his work with the Authority, Parker served on the board of directors of the American Public Works Association, the County Engineers Association and the Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association.

Parker was promoted many times throughout his career with the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works. He joined the department in 1965 when it was estab-

lished and served as Bureau Chief for Solid Waste Disposal from 1971 to 1986. He then served as Acting Director of Public Works until he was appointed Director in 1988. Parker was responsible for the design, development and operation of the County's landfill and convenience center systems.



"Parker had a distinguished 30-year career in government with a demonstrated ability to lead a diverse, complex and essential county operation," said Robin Depot, executive director of the Authority. "Parker had a broad smile and a hearty laugh. He was always willing to share his knowledge with others. The Authority's member representatives and staff extend heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Andrews and the Andrews family."

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RRF WINS ENGINEERING AWARD

continued from page 1

gases, carbon injection mercury control, ammonia injection to control nitrogen oxides and removal of particulates by using a reverse-air fabric filter. The Montgomery County facility is the only one in the nation that operates with all of these emission control devices in place. Its emission levels have consistently remained well below the stringent limits of the facility's operating permit. In addition, the facility is the first

and only waste-to-energy plant in the nation to transport all waste deliveries and ash removal by rail. This reduces daily traffic, vehicle emissions and noise in its rural setting.

The facility began receiving waste in 1995 and is designed to accept up to 1,800 tons of waste per day. Comprehensive analyses of the ambient air, water, soil, vegetables, milk and fish in the surrounding area have shown no

detectable differences in ambient environmental conditions. "Waste-to-energy facilities are among the cleanest power plants in the world," said Robin Depot, executive director of the Authority. We have proven this to be true in the first three years of this facility's operation."

For more information, please call Chris Skaggs at (410) 333-2730 or visit www.dpwt.com.



The Authority staff celebrated New Year's Eve on June 30 with a pot-luck luncheon. Executive Director Robin Depot (standing left) took the opportunity to thank the staff for a productive FY98. The Authority staff members are Nita Bahl, Soncie Johnson, JoAnn Strack, Shirl Wright, Chris Skaggs (standing right) and Diane Duvall. Cathy Coble, Director of Finance and Administration was not present.



Northeast
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